



**CITY OF TAUNTON
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TAUNTON WILL SHINE IN SILVER AND GOLD THIS WEEKEND

Lights On Festival, Lighting of the Green, Fireworks, Santa's Arrival, Christmas Parade

TAUNTON - The City of Taunton will shine in Silver and Gold this weekend beginning Saturday at the 102nd Lighting of the Green/Lights On Festival which features an extravagant light display on the Taunton Green, indoor and outdoor activities and performances at over 40 sites scattered throughout the Downtown area, a fireworks show, and of course Santa's arrival to the Silver City.

The festival's activities run throughout the duration of the event at different Downtown locations from 4-8PM. The lighting ceremony on the main stage in front of the Taunton Green begins at 4:30PM and is immediately followed by a fireworks show and Santa's arrival.

Lights On festival is hosted by the City of Taunton Mayor's Office, Taunton Park and Recreation, The Downtown Taunton Foundation and Taunton Area Chamber of Commerce.

"I would like to thank Colleen Simmons and the Downtown Taunton Foundation, Kerrie Babbin and the Taunton Area Chamber of Commerce, Commissioner of Parks and Recreation Marilyn Greene, my Chief of Staff Alyssa Haggerty, and all of the City departments including the TMLP, Police, Fire, DPW, and TEMA who work together every year to make this event a great success," Mayor Tom Hoyer said. "I'd also like to thank the volunteers, Downtown businesses, and of course the event sponsors who have supported us once again in making this event free for children and affordable for families."

This year's festival includes nine new sites. A few of this year's main attractions include a fire show by Circus Dynamics, musical entertainment by The Infractions, an Elvis impersonator, living tree statues, ice sculptures, train rides, hay rides, and story time with Mrs. Claus. Free photos with Santa will be available on the front lawn of the Superior Courthouse. A complete list of times, locations and activities is available at www.lightsonfestival.org. Additionally, programs and maps will be available at Santa's Village on the Taunton Green during the event.

The 2015 Lights On premier sponsor is Bristol County Savings Bank. The festival is free for children under 12 and admission buttons for adults cost \$5. Buttons can be purchased at any Lights On site, or prior to the event at Bristol County Savings Bank, Taunton Federal Credit Union, the Taunton Public Library, Truchis' Supermarkets, or Temporary City Hall.

Parking is available at the Trescott Street lot, Court Street lot, Pleasant Street lot and behind City Hall. A free shuttle service will be provided by GATRA from 4-8PM. The shuttle will transport individuals from Coyle Cassidy High School to Bristol County Savings Bank, and back, every ten minutes throughout the duration of the event.

"The weather will cooperate and we expect a great weekend for all families," Park and Recreation Commissioner Marilyn Greene said. "We've added a beautiful vintage sled to this year's display which we're excited to incorporate Saturday for pictures with Santa."

Following Lights On, the City of Taunton Christmas parade kicks off Sunday at noon. The parade is organized by Commissioner Marilyn Greene and the Christmas Parade Committee, and this year features 4 Divisions packed with entertainment. The parade begins on Broadway by the entrance of Mayflower Cemetery and concludes Downtown on Main Street. If you are in the Christmas Parade and looking for participant placement please visit: http://taunton-ma.gov/Pages/TauntonMA_Parks/parade15.pdf.

Recently, City of Taunton Departments and staff donated Christmas baskets to raffle off to raise money for the Christmas parade. The baskets were raffled off at a Council meeting on November 17, and collectively raised over \$5,000.

In addition to this weekend's activities, Santa will be visiting Santa's Village on the Taunton Green Friday December 11, Saturday December 12, Sunday December 13, Friday December 18, Saturday December 19 and Sunday December 20 for pictures with visitors from 5-8PM. Also, beginning Monday, December 7 there will be a mailbox next to Santa's Village on the Taunton Green where children can leave letters for Santa. All letters will be answered by Santa.

For additional information please visit the City of Taunton's Lighting of the Green Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/lightingofthegreen/>.

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